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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

- Claim 1. (original) A method for evaluating biological tissue, comprising:
- a) treating biological tissue with an iron oxide contrast agent; and
- b) imaging the tissue with ²³Na or ³⁹K magnetic resonance.
- Claim 2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the tissue is imaged with ²³Na MRI.
- Claim 3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the tissue is imaged with ³⁹K MRI
- Claim 4. (currently amended) The method of <u>claim 1 any one of claims 1 through</u>

 3-wherein the tissue is cardiac tissue.
- Claim 5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 through 3-wherein the tissue comprises infarcted cardiac tissue.
- Claim 6. (currently amended) The method of <u>claim 1</u> any one of claim 1 through 5 further comprising assessing the MRI image to detect infracted tissue.
- Claim 7. (currently amended) The method of <u>claim 1</u> any one of <u>claims 1 through</u>
 6-wherein the contrast agent comprises one or more iron atoms coordinated with a polymer.
- Claim 8. (currently amended) The method of <u>claim 1</u> any claims 1 through 6 wherein the contrast agent comprises one or more iron atoms coordinated with a polymer having oxygen substitution.

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- Claim 9. (currently amended) The method of <u>claim 1</u> any one of <u>claims 1</u> through 6-wherein the contrast agent comprises one or more iron atoms coordinated with a polysaccharide.
- Claim 10. (currently amended) The method of <u>claim 1</u> any one of <u>claims 1 through</u>
 6-wherein the contrast agent comprises one or more iron atoms coordinated with a dextran.
- Claim 11. (currently amended) The method of <u>claim 1</u> any one of claims 1 through 6-wherein the contrast agent is MION-46.
- Claim 12. (currently amended) The method of <u>claim 1</u> any one of <u>claims 1 through</u> 11-wherein the contrast agent is administered to a subject suffering from or susceptible to myocardial infarction.
- Claim 13. (original) The method of claim 12 further comprising selecting a subject suffering or susceptible to myocardial infarction and then administering the contrast agent to the selected subject.
- Claim 14. (currently amended) The method of <u>claim 1</u> any one of <u>claims 1</u> through 13 wherein the contrast agent is administered to a subject and a magnetic resonance study is made of the subject's heart.
- Claim 15. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the magnetic resonance study differentiates between normal myocardial tissue, injured myocardial tissue and infarcted myocardial tissue.

- Claim 16. (currently amended) A method identifying infarcted myocardial tissue of a subject comprising:
- a) administering to the subject an imaging-effective amount of an iron oxide contrast agent; and
- b) imaging the subject's heart with ²³Na or ³⁹K magnetic resonance to thereby identify infarcted myocardial tissue.
- Claim 17. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein the subject is suffering from or has suffered cardiac disorder.
- Claim 18. (original) The method of claim 16 or 17 wherein the subject is suffering from or has suffered heart failure of cardiogenic shock.
- Claim 19. (original) The method of claim 16 or 17 wherein the subject is suffering from or has suffered a cardiovascular disorder.
- Claim 20. (currently amended) The method of claim 16 any one of claims 16 through 19 wherein the tissue is imaged with ²³Na MRI.
- Claim 21. (currently amended) The method of <u>claim 16</u> any one of claims 16 through 19 wherein the tissue is imaged with ³⁹K MRI.
- Claim 22. (currently amended) The method of <u>claim 16</u> any one of <u>claims 16</u> through 21-wherein the contrast agent comprises one or more iron atoms coordinated with a polymer.

- Claim 23. (currently amended) The method of <u>claim 16</u> any claims 16 through 21 wherein the contrast agent comprises one or more iron atoms coordinated with a polymer having oxygen substitution.
- Claim 24. (currently amended) The method of <u>claim 16</u> any one of <u>claims 16</u> through 21 wherein the contrast agent comprises one or more iron atoms coordinated with a polysaccharide.
- Claim 25. (currently amended) The method of <u>claim 16</u> any one of claims 16 through 21 wherein the contrast agent comprises one or more iron atoms coordinated with a dextran.
- Claim 27. (currently amended) The method of <u>claim 16</u> any one of claims 16 through 21 wherein the contrast agent is MION-46.
- Claim 28. (original) A magnetic resonance system comprising: a magnetic resonance imaging apparatus for ²³Na or ³⁹K imaging; and an iron oxide contrast agent.
- Claim 29. (original) The system of claim 28 wherein the system is adapted for ²³Na imaging.
- Claim 30. (original) The system of claim 28 wherein the system is adapted for ³⁹K imaging.
- Claim 31. (currently amended) The system of <u>claim 28any one of claims 28</u> through 30 wherein the contrast agent comprises one or more iron atoms coordinated with a polymer.

- Claim 32. (currently amended) The system of <u>claim 28 any one of claims 28</u> through 30 wherein the contrast agent comprises one or more iron atoms coordinated with a polymer having oxygen substitution.
- Claim 33. (currently amended) The system of <u>claim 28</u> any one of claims 28 through 30 wherein the contrast agent comprises one or more iron atoms coordinated with a polysaccharide.
- Claim 34. (currently amended) The system of <u>claim 28</u> any one of <u>claims 28</u> through 30 wherein the contrast agent comprises one or more iron atoms coordinated with a dextran.
- Claim 35. (currently amended) The system of <u>claim 28 any one of claims 28</u> through 30 wherein the contrast agent is MION-46.
- Claim 36. (currently amended) The system of <u>claim 28</u> any one of claims 28 through 35 wherein the contrast agent is packaged in a pharmaceutically acceptable form.